

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 00308 160004Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /084 W

----- 118300

R 151533ZHJAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5666

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0308

USEUCOM FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: LABOR AGITATION: PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

REF: LISBON 0203 (DTG 121550Z JAN 76)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 00308 160004Z

SUMMARY: JAN 17 LISBON RALLY BEING ORGANIZED BY THIRTEEN COMMUNIST DOMINATED UNIONS TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY MEASURES WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT OF SERIES OF EVENTS JAN 16-17 THROUGH WHICH COMMUNISTS WILL ATTEMPT TO REMIND RIVALS THAT THEY REMAIN FORCE WORTHY OF RESPECT. IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO REVIVE "POPULAR POWER," NEW GROUP BACKED BY FAR LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION HAS ALSO CALLED DEMONSTRATION JAN 16 AGAINST GOVERNMENT "ANTI-POPULAR" ECONOMIC POLICY. FAILURE OF ORGANIZERS OF JAN 16 AND 17 DEMONSTRATIONS TO JOIN FORCES REFLECTS FAR LEFT'S CONTINUING FEAR OF COMMUNIST EXPLOITATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND ITS AGENTS IN ORGANIZED LABOR WILL SPONSOR SERIES OF EVENTS JAN 16-18:

-- PCP RALLIES: PCP SEC GEN ALVARO CUNHAL WILL DENOTE COMMUNIST RALLIES IN OPORTO, JAN 16, AND BEJA, JAN 18.

--CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE: COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED LISBON CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION HAS CALLED TWO-HOUR STRIKE JAN 16 TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT ECONMIC PROGRAM.

--INTERSINDICAL PLENARY MEETING: INTERSINDICAL, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION, HAS CALLED PLENARY MEETING IN COIMBRA JAN 16-17 TO DISCUSS CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. LISBON RALLY: HIGHLIGHT OF PCP WEEKEND ACTIVITIES WILL BE JAN 17 RALLY IN LISBON SPORTS STADIUM. RALLY IS BEING ORGANIZED BY ACTION COMMITTEE OF 13 COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED UNIONS IN LISBON AREA. MAJOR THEME IS PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY MEASURES, IN PARTICULAR INCREASES IN PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES AND SERVICES AND SUSPENSION OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL MARCH 1. SECONDARY THEMES INCLUDE DEMANDS FOR RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED FOLLOWING ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP AND FOR GUARANTEES THAT NATIONALIZATIONS AND AGRARIAN REFORM WILL NOT BE REVERSED. RALLY'S ORGANIZERS CLAIM SUPPORT FROM OVER ONE HUNDRED LISBON UNIONS AND "POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS." INCLUDING THE MILITANT, PCP-DOMINATED PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT OF LISBON INDUSTRIAL BELT WORKERS' COMMISSIONS.

3. PARALLEL DEMONSTRATION: A SEPARATE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PRICE INCREASES AND WAGE FREEZE IS SCHEDULED JAN 16. JAN 16
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 00308 160004Z

DEMONSTRATION IS SPONSORED BY NEW ORGANIZATION, "GROUP FOR PROMOTION OF ORGANIZATION OF POPULAR WILL" (GRUPO DINIMIZADOR DAS ORGANIZACOES DA VONTADE POPULAR--GDOVP). GDOVP, WHICH DESCRIBES SELF AS "NEW FORM OF OGGANIZATION OF WORKERS' COMMISSIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS IN FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM," WAS FOUNDED NOV 30, 1975 BY SEVENTY-PLUS POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH, LISNAVE SHIPYARD WORKERS COMMISSION,

IS DOMINATED BY MARXIST-LENINIST POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP).
GDOVP PLANS NATIONAL MEETING JAN 25 TO ELECT PROVISIONAL
SECRETARIAT ON "PLATFORM OF UNION AGAINST PARTISAN (READ PCP)
MANIPULATION."

4. ABORTIVE RECONCILIATION EFFORT: SCHEDULING AND THEMATIC
SIMILARITY OF JAN 16 AND 17 DEMONSTRATIONS LED FIRST TO MUTUAL
RECRIMINATIONS AND THEN ABORTIVE RECONCILIATION ATTEMPT BY
RESPECTIVE BACKERS. IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JAN 9, LISBON PCP
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (DORL) TOOK PAINS TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF
FROM GDOVP, OBSERVED THAT JAN 16 DEMONSTRATION APPEARED TO BE
ATTEMPT TO PRE-EMPT JAN 17 EVENT, AND WARNED THAT BOTH GDOVP
AND ITS DEMONSTRATION WERE "OBJECTIVELY DIVISIVE." DGOVP
REJECTED CHARGE JAN 12, CAUTIONING LISBON UNION LEADERSHIP
AGAINST PARTISAN MANEUVERS. GROUP EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS, HOWEVER,
TO DISCUSS COMBINING DEMONSTRATIONS IN SINGLE, NON-PARTISAN
EVENT. TWO GROUPS MET JAN 12 BUT WERE UNABLE TO COME TO TERMS.

5. LISBON GOVERNMENT WARNS ON DEMONSTRATIONS: ON JAN 13,
LISBON CIVIL GOVERNOR ISSUED STATEMENT NOTING THAT EXISTING
LEGISLATION PERMITTED DEMONSTRATIONS IN LISBON SQUARE WHERE
GDOVP DEMONSTRATION WAS TO BE HELD AFTER 7:30 PM ON WEEKDAYS.
HE AFFIRMED THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE ENFORCED. GDOVP DEMON-
STRATION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 PM BUT HAS NOW BEEN
CHANGED TO COMPLY WITH LAW.

6. COMMENT: POPULAR DEMOCRATIC (PPD) AND SOCIALIST (PS)
SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE LARGELY BEEN
IGNORED BY COALITION PARTNERS ON RECENT GOVERNMENT DECISIONS.
UPCOMING PCP ACTIVITIES REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO SHOW RIVALS THAT
COMMUNISTS STILL HAVE CLOUT. EMPHASIS ON ORGANIZED LABOR IS
POINTED REMINDER TO PS AND PPD OF PROBLEMS COMMUNISTS CAN STILL
CAUSE IN THAT SECTOR. AS COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE
BIG TURN-OUTS BY LISBON WORKERS ON BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LISBON 00308 160004Z

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT JAN 17 RALLY SEEMS LIKELY.

7. GDOVP REPRESENTS ATTEMPT BY FAR LEFT, IN THIS CASE UDP,
TO REVIVE CONCEPT OF POPULAR POWER. INABILITY OF GDOVP AND
COMMUNIST UNIONS TO COME TO TERMS OVER DEMONSTRATIONS INDICATE
DEPTH OF FAR LEFT FEARS OF BEING EXPLOITED BY PCP.
OKUN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON00308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760016-0060
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760193/aaaagehx.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 203
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970919
Subject: LABOR AGITATION: PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO
To: STATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
DIA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

